

from a sonogram when she was 26 weeks pregnant that her fetus had a severely malformed brain and numerous other serious defects.

"These were desperately wanted children, where something went terribly wrong," she said.

In a recent interview, Ades said she and her husband, Richard, who live in Los Angeles, "begged for . . . someone that could fix my baby's brain or the hole in his heart," but were told their child had no chance of survival. She opted for abortion, she said, because she believed her fetus was in pain.

Four different doctors told her intact D&E was the safest way, Ades said. "We knew other options existed," including a Caesarean section, "but they were not considered as safe, as healthy or as appropriate for us. . . . What bothers me is that we have to defend what we did. We believe it was such a humane thing."

Johnson, of the National Right to Life Committee, and others argue that even in the case of severe developmental defects like the Ades fetus, the baby should be allowed to be born. "The premise that in some cases it is necessary to kill the baby to complete a delivery . . . there are no such cases," he said.

Clinton said he would have signed the legislation if it had included an exception for women who faced serious health risks without the procedure. But foes of such an exception argued that it "would gut the bill," in Johnson's words.

While the immediate future of the abortion debate clearly hangs on the November elections, it seems likely that this will not be the last time Congress focuses on a specific procedure.

Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.), a leading abortion opponent in the House, said after the House approved the ban late last year that antiabortion lawmakers "would begin to focus on the methods and declare them to be illegal."

For abortion rights supporters, that is a daunting prospect.

"There is no abortion procedure when described that is aesthetically comforting, whether at six weeks or 32 weeks," said Frances Kissling, president of Catholics for a Free Choice. "This is exactly the kind of abortion issue that people don't want to think about. . . . They want women to be able to have this option in such extreme and terrible circumstances, but they know it's not pretty. It has to happen, but it shouldn't be in the newspaper."

#### VIABILITY AND THE LAW

The normal length of human gestation is 266 days, or 38 weeks. This is roughly 40 weeks from a woman's last menstrual period. Pregnancy is often divided into three parts, or "trimesters." Both legally and medically, however, this division has little meaning. For one thing, there is little precise agreement about when one trimester ends and another begins. Some authorities describe the first trimester as going through the end of the 12th week of gestation. Others say the 13th week. Often the third trimester is defined as beginning after 24 weeks of fetal development.

Nevertheless, the trimester concept—and particularly the division between the second and third ones—commonly arises in discussion of late-stage abortion.

Contrary to a widely held public impression, third-trimester abortion is not outlawed in the United States. The landmark Supreme Court decisions, *Roe v. Wade* abortion on demand up until the time of fetal "viability." After that point, states can limit a woman's access to abortion. The court did not specify when viability begins.

In *Doe v. Bolton* the court ruled that abortion could be performed after fetal viability if the operating physician judged the procedure necessary to protect the life or health of the woman. "Health" was broadly defined.

"Medical judgment may be exercised in the light of all factors—physical, emotional psychological familial and the women's age—relevant to the well-being of the patient," the court wrote. "All these factors may relate to health. This allows the attending physician the room he needs to make his best medical judgment."

Because of this definition, life-threatening conditions need not exist in order for a woman to get a third-trimester abortion.

For most of the century, however, viability was confined to the third trimester because neonatal intensive care medicine was unable to keep fetuses younger than that alive. This is no longer the case.

In an article published in the journal *Pediatrics* in 1991, physicians reported the experience of 1,765 infants born with a very low birth weight at seven hospitals. About 20 percent of those babies were considered to be at 25 weeks' gestation or less. Of those that had completed 23 weeks' development, 23 percent survived. At 24 weeks 34 percent survived. None of those infants was yet in the third trimester.

#### THANK YOU, JUNE KENYON, FOR YOUR LOYAL SERVICE

#### HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 1996

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was with mixed emotions that I announced last December 11 my decision to retire from the House at the conclusion of my current term. As I explained at the time, the decision to retire was made more difficult because of the loyalty and dedication of my staff—and because of the genuine friendship I feel for them. Each one of them has served the men and women of Texas' 8th Congressional District in an extraordinary way.

Today, I want to thank one member of my staff—June Kenyon—for everything she's done for me and my constituents in the more than 6 years she has served on my official staff, and for the 6 years she has served on my campaign staff.

As a member of my congressional casework staff since early 1990, June has helped thousands of my constituents who have experienced problems with Federal departments and agencies, cutting through bureaucratic redtape to ensure that Federal programs help, not just frustrate, the people they were designed to help. At the same time, June has managed my Youth Advisory Board program, in which two students from each high school and college in my district meet semiannually to share with me their opinions and concerns on issues affecting them.

In addition, June has also managed the computer hardware and software that link my three district offices and contribute to my staff's efficiency.

Prior to joining my official staff, June worked for many years in my campaign office. In mid-1984, she began working as my campaign's systems manager, maintaining a massive mailing list and voluminous financial records. In later years, she served as my campaign's

financial director, office manager, and scheduler. June has trained volunteers; organized fundraisers; maintained payroll, tax, and Federal Election Commission records; and made sure I was where I was supposed to be—one of the more challenging tasks anyone has ever undertaken.

It was June's reputation as a woman of many talents who is always ready and willing to do whatever is necessary to ensure that a project is seen through to completion that prompted my friend, Jack Rains, to ask for June's help in his 1988 gubernatorial campaign.

June has been an extremely active member of the Republican party for many years. She is a member of the Texas Federated Republican Women, as well as a member of the Kingwood Area Republican Women's Club. And she is a charter member of the Lake Houston Republican Women's Club.

June Kenyon is one of those hard-working men and women who make all of us in this institution look better than we deserve. I know she has done that for me, and I appreciate this opportunity to publicly thank her for the dedication, loyalty and professionalism she has exhibited throughout the years it has been my privilege to know and work with her. I'm so grateful to her for all she's done for me that I'm almost willing to overlook the fact, Mr. Speaker, that June was born in New York, not Texas.

June has yet to make a definite decision about what she wants to do in the years ahead. But I am confident that the skills and the personal qualities she has demonstrated in my office will lead to continued success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I know you join with me in saying thank you to June Kenyon for her years of loyal service to me, to the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District, and to this great institution. And I know you join with me in wishing June, and her two sons—Charles Thomas McDonough and George Kenyon McDonough, all the best in the years ahead.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION IS CHILD ABUSE

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 1996

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, partial-birth abortion is child abuse.

That some otherwise respectable and pleasant and well-mannered people would permit killing babies in this way—which Congress can stop if it has the will—is both baffling and extremely sad.

That some otherwise smart and even brilliant people have been so easily fooled by the abortion industry's outrageous lies, distortions, half-truths, and surface appeal arguments is, at best, disappointing and unsettling.

How can anyone in this Chamber or in the White House defend sticking a pair of scissors into a partially born baby's head so as to puncture the child's skull so a suction catheter can be inserted to suck out the child's brains? How can anyone support this and then say they're for kids?